September 14-16, 2013

Please note that news sites update their hyperlinks, so it is advised that articles of interest be read soon as they might not be accessible later.

Detroit Free Press: U.S. Attorney: State Supreme Court rule may hinder access to interpreters

"The top federal prosecutor in Detroit is criticizing a new rule announced this week by the Michigan Supreme Court on court interpreters for people who can't speak English, saying it might fail to cover everyone. The state Supreme Court said Wednesday it has created the rule requiring all courts in Michigan to offer foreign-language interpreters for people involved in the court system who can't understand English."

Full story

Also see:

Ingham County Legal News: Justices Young and McCormack announce new rule: Michigan Supreme Court kicks off new session by directing access to foreign language interpreters

Full story

Note: The article also ran in the Macomb County Legal News.

The MiLW Blog: Judge asks: Are 'Yoopereze' interpreters now available? Full story

Michigan Supreme Court kicks off new session by directing consistent, meaningful access to foreign language interpreters; Justices Young and McCormack announce new rule

Press release

The Detroit News: Shame in his game

The editorial states "The Michigan Supreme Court should act quickly in following the Michigan Judicial Tenure Commission's recommendation to remove Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Wade McCree from the bench.... Judges at all levels need to have impeccable reputations and follow the highest standards of moral conduct. McCree fails miserably."

Full story

The Detroit News: Judge Kimberly Small decides against U.S. Senate run

"Oakland County District Court Judge Kimberly Small has decided against running for the U.S. Senate next year, becoming the latest Republican to pass up the seat being vacated by retiring Democratic Sen. Carl Levin.... Small would have had to resign her judgeship in order to become a candidate for the August 2014 primary, [Paul] Welday said."

Full story

The Detroit News: \$1.14M awarded to woman injured in crash by texting driver

"An Oakland Circuit Court jury Friday awarded \$1.14 million to a 23-year-old woman who was severely injured in 2011 when a driver, distracted by texting, ran a red light and plowed into her vehicle. Kathy Haynes, formerly of Bloomfield Hills, suffered multiple injuries, including traumatic brain injury, severe neck spasms, an injured disc and permanent nerve injury, according to a news release issued by her attorney, Ven Johnson."

Full story

Also see:

The Oakland Press: West Bloomfield woman awarded \$1.14M judgment after accident

Full story

The Detroit News: Western Michigan University, Cooley to sign affiliation agreement

"Thomas M. Cooley Law School and Western Michigan University plan to formally sign an affiliation agreement between the two schools. The Tuesday event at Western Michigan's campus in Kalamazoo is expected to include officials and graduates of both schools."

Full story

Also see:

Detroit Free Press: Western Michigan, Cooley Law School to sign affiliation agreement

Full story

Detroit Legal News: WMU, Cooley Law to gather for formal signing of affiliation (second article)

Full story

The MiLW Blog: Western Michigan to add Cooley affiliation Tuesday Full story

Detroit Legal News: Judiciary Committee approves legislation for mental health courts

"Mental health courts could be more easily established in Michigan under legislation approved Friday in the House Judiciary Committee. House Bills 4694 through 4697 would statutorily create mental health courts in Michigan law. Rep. Kevin Cotter, sponsor of HB 4694 and chair of the House Judiciary Committee, applauded the passage of the bills."

Full story

Note: The article also ran in the Oakland County Legal News.

Grand Rapids Press: Feds: Grand Rapids man threatens to kill federal judges in West Michigan

"A Grand Rapids man is accused of threatening to kill federal judges and magistrates in West Michigan. Thomas Horrigan sent letters to the federal judges and magistrates in Grand Rapids, with another expected to show up in Kalamazoo, a criminal complaint said."

Full story

Heritage Newspapers/Ypsilanti: WASHTENAW COUNTY: Board of Commissioners agrees to buy new trial court software at \$2.4 million price tag

"The Washtenaw County Trial Court will have its new computer system in place and begin electronic filing by the end of next year. After a debate in August, Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners agreed last week on Sept. 4 to purchase a \$2.4 million program for the court, drawing funds from the court budget as well as capital and technology reserves. County officials hope revenues generated from e-filing as well as reduced staff costs from the system will offset the purchase and maintenance costs."

Full story

Kalamazoo Gazette: Re-sentencing of Kalamazoo juvenile lifer adjourned, rescheduled for October

"... [Dallas] McDade's re-sentencing is now scheduled for Oct. 25 in front of Kalamazoo County Circuit Judge Alexander C. Lipsey. The Michigan Court of Appeals in June overturned McDade's sentence based on a 5-4 opinion by the U.S. Supreme Court in June 2012 that invalidated 'juvenile lifer' sentencing schemes as a form of cruel and unusual punishment that fail to consider the potential for cognitive and character development in young people."

Full story

Lansing State Journal: Obituary: R. Ann Herzberg

"R. Ann Herzberg Eaton Rapids Age 56, died peacefully at her home on September 13, 2013.... She was employed by the Michigan Court of Appeals for over 27 years and served as editor of the Michigan Appellate Digest for many of those years. Ann was a member of numerous professional associations and served as chair of the State Bar of Michigan Appellate Court Administration Committee."

Full story

Macomb County Legal News: DHS director honored for public service

"Maura Corrigan, director of the Michigan Department of Human Services and former state Supreme Court justice, has been honored by the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association (DMBA) with its annual Dennis W. Archer Public Service Award.... This year's gala was held at the Detroit Wayne County Port Authority on Thursday, Jan. 26.... Speakers included Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Robert P. Young Jr."

Full story

The MILW Blog: ChachiMomma! Clothing manufacturer sues the pants off competition

"... Judge Christopher P. Yates of the Kent County Circuit Court granted Infusion injunctive relief. Guadalupe's effort to terminate the agreement with Infusion failed, ruled Yates.... Yates also cited customer confusion, lost sales and having to deal with complaints from the Gonzales family's competing businesses as reasons to grant Infusion injunctive relief."

Full story

Motion Magazine: What's Cookin': Legal minds find food is a 'great equalizer'

"Memo to Food Network execs: If you're searching for the next charismatic cooking show host, the Detroit-area legal community has two terrific candidates: [52nd District Court] Judge Julie Nicholson and attorney Nick Roumel. Each is dynamic, charming and sports an engaging smile. And, oh yeah, both love to cook."

Full story

Oakland County Legal News: Judges discuss new business court system

"The Michigan Irish American Chamber of Commerce along with co-sponsors the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law and the Incorporated Society of Irish American Lawyers (ISIAL) hosted a panel discussion for lawyers and business owners on the new business court system on Thursday, Sept. 5, at UDM Law School."

Full story

Oakland County Legal News: Patriot Week panel discussion to look at immigration reform

"The Oakland County Bar Association's Diversity in the Legal Profession Committee is pleased to be participating in a panel discussion for Patriot Week on 'Immigration - To Reform or Not to Reform? and How and Why?' on Thursday, Sept. 26, beginning with a reception from 5 to 5:30 p.m. followed by the panel discussion from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Oakland County Bar Center in Bloomfield Hills. [Among those taking] part in the program will be Oakland County Circuit Court Judge Michael Warren." *Full story*

Press & Guide/Dearborn: DEARBORN: Former clerk, councilman John Jay Hubbard dies (updated)

"John Jay Hubbard, who followed his father's footsteps into city service and inspired one of his daughters to do the same, died Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2013, of respiratory failure at Oakwood Hospital & Medical Center.... [Daughter Judge Susan] Hubbard followed in the tradition. She serves in Wayne County Circuit Court's Family Division Domestic Section, and is a former county commissioner and city councilwoman." *Full story*

Saginaw News: Judge awards more than \$100K in attorney fees, costs to Bridgeport store owners who sued over State Street Bridge relocation

"A judge has awarded more than \$100,000 in attorney fees and costs to the business owners who sued Bridgeport Township and the Bridgeport Downtown Development Authority over the project to restore the State Street Bridge that crosses the Cass River. Saginaw County Chief Circuit Judge Fred L. Borchard's Sept. 10 ruling comes about 11 months after a jury awarded nearly \$150,000 to the Meyers and Harringtons."

Full story

Saginaw News: Volunteers wanted in Saginaw County to be advocates for neglected, abused children

"Since 1992, Shirley Adams has been an advocate for children stuck in complex court cases involving abuse and neglect.... Adams is a Court Appointed Special Advocate, or CASA, in Saginaw, a volunteer role she has filled in multiple states. The CASA program, at its broadest definition, trains volunteers in investigating child abuse and neglect cases and reporting to family court judges on their findings and recommendations."

Full story

SBM Blog: State Bar Annual Meeting Highlights

"This week, for the first time in several years, the State Bar's annual meeting will be held in Lansing....
There are many reasons, new and old, for you to go. Here are just a few: Celebrate some of our finest, as the Governor kicks off an Awards Banquet honoring an array of superstars in Michigan's justice system: ... Frank J. Kelley Award, Hon. Donna T. Morris; ... Michigan State Bar Foundation Access to Justice Award, [State Court Administrator] Chad C. Schmucker."

Full story

WKAR-TV(23)/East Lansing: Off the Record with Tim Skubick

The September 13 guest was State Bar of Michigan President Bruce Courtade discussing ending anonymous campaign spending in elections for judges and Supreme Court justices (see 14:38-25:57 minute mark).

Podcast

Also see:

Grand Rapids Press: State Bar of Michigan calls for halt to secret funding of judicial campaign ads (Guest column)

Full story

Oakland County Legal News: State Bar of Michigan calls for halt to secret funding of judicial campaign ads

Full story